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BUT SEN. YOUNG OPPOSES CIA WATCHDOG EXPANSION

Burden of U. S. Secrets

Heavy

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WASHINGTON — It doesn't bother him as much as it used to, but there are still times when Sen. Milton Young wishes he wasn't privy to some of America's most vital and closely guarded secrets.

The senior North Dakota Republican senator is one of probably 35 or 40 persons who know such things as the exact size of the U. S. nuclear arsenal or what Red China might do if the United States bombed Hanoi.

Those secrets are revealed to him as a member of the so-called "secret seven," a group of senior senators who make up a special blue-ribbon group which oversees the mysterious central intelligence agency (CIA).

Young often, I'd like to for-
ne of the things that I
Young confided in a
interview. "It doesn't
e it easy to serve on a
committee that deals with
ome really super-secret
stuff as we do."

STILL DIFFICULT

"It doesn't bother me quite as much as when I first went on it three years ago, but it's

still very difficult. There's the constant problem that something you say about a certain subject might be interpreted as coming from the CIA or that you might inadvertently say something that shouldn't be made public."

Young, in his 21st year in the senate, will be top-ranking Republican member of the powerful appropriations committee next year. He's "amazed at some of the top secret information" divulged at the CIA briefings, he said.

He is no less amazed at how the CIA keeps its operations from becoming known. "They've had some tremendously important assignments, such as the development of the U2 plane, which they were able to keep secret."

He feels the CIA is "one of the most important agencies of government," and argues that the realities of the world situation and national security make it essential that we have such an intelligence gathering group.

NO LEAKS

Young is proud that there have been no leaks from the senate watchdog committee of which he is a member, and



SEN. MILTON YOUNG
One of 'Secret Seven'

for this reason, strongly opposes a current move to expand the committee.

Referring to a resolution by Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., which would add three members of the foreign relations committee to the CIA watchdog group, Young says, "you can't have a big committee of congress without having leaks."

This is the major argu-

ment against the McCarthy proposal, he feels, and he is prepared to work to defeat the measure when it comes up on the floor of the senate this week.

"If you had a big committee that knew about the development of the atomic bomb, I'm sure it would have gotten out. That's always the case," he said.

DANGER FORESEEN

"We've been warned about how dangerous it would be if any information leaked out from our briefings", Young said. "The worse part is that it could endanger the lives of CIA agents or at least dry up our sources of information."

Young disputes the argument that the foreign relations committee should be included in the CIA briefings because CIA operations sometimes affect our foreign policy, an area which the foreign relations committee is constitutionally charged with handling.

"No, I think the CIA has little to do with our foreign policy — no more than the defense intelligence agency or the national security agency, both of which have far-flung intelligence networks."